

ASU plays Villanova Saturday at High Noon

Written by Mike Flynn

Sunday, 05 December 2010 17:18

In what is surely one of the most anticipated matchups in NCAA Division I Football Championship history, top-seeded Appalachian State University will host defending national champion Villanova in this year's quarterfinals on Saturday at noon at Kidd Brewer Stadium. The game will be televised nationally on ESPN.

Appalachian (10-2) advanced to the quarterfinals by routing Western Illinois, 42-14, on Saturday in the snow at Kidd Brewer Stadium. No. 10 Villanova (8-4) overcame an early 10-point deficit to pull away for an impressive 54-24 win over Stephen F. Austin on the road on Saturday.

The quarterfinal showdown pits the winners of four of the last five NCAA Division I Football national championships, as ASU claimed an unprecedented three-straight FCS titles from 2005-07 and Villanova won its first national crown last year. However, while the Mountaineers marched to the championship's No. 1 seed with a 9-2 regular season, the Wildcats needed an overtime victory at then-top-ranked Delaware on the final day of the regular season to earn a spot in the 20-team postseason field.

The game also features two of the nation's most dynamic players in Appalachian quarterback DeAndre Presley and Villanova wide receiver/running back/kick returner Matt Szczur. Both had spectacular performances in their team's second-round wins with Presley amassing 311 yards of total offense (including a career-high 264 on the ground) and accounting for three touchdowns in ASU's victory over WIU and Szczur catching 11 passes for 128 yards and running nine times for 68 yards in Villanova's triumph at SFA. Szczur's return to the lineup has been a major part of Villanova's late-season resurgence, as he missed six games in the latter stages of the regular season with an ankle injury.

Tickets for Saturday's colossal showdown (\$25 for adults, \$15 for youth, \$5 for ASU students) go on sale at 2 p.m. Sunday (click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets online). Tickets can also be purchased by phone at (828) 262-2079 or in person at the ASU athletics ticket office in the Holmes Center beginning at 9 a.m. Monday. Game coverage begins at 10 am on AM 1450, WATA.